

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2770

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ELO, SU, XF, XL

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF ICATU CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

REFS: A. KHARTOUM 3046 B. STATE 255799 C. TRIPOLI 1296

1. ECONOFF CALLED ON ABDALLA NASR GINAWI, PRESIDENT OF
SUDANESE WORKERS TRADE UNION FEDERATION (SWTUF) ON OCT 19
AND MET WITH HIM AND (UNEXPECTEDLY) WHAT APPEARED TO BE
ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SWTUF. GINAWI CONFIRMED THAT
AS REPORTED REFTTEL (A) ICATU CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING
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DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN KHARTOUM FROM OCT 12-15. HE

SAID THAT MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN KHARTOUM SOMETIME DURING NOVEMBER, BUT HE WAS NOT YET SURE OF EXACT DATE.

2. RE TRIPOLI LABOR CONFERENCE (SEE REF C), GINAWI SAID THAT 18 DELEGATES HAD ATTENDED FROM SUDAN. REPORTING OFFICER MENTIONED SURPRISINGLY HARSH RADIO LIBYA BROADCAST OF SUDANESE STATEMENT AT CONFERENCE (SEE FBIS OF OCT 13), GINAWI COMMENTED THAT NO ONE IN HIS DELEGATION HAD MADE THAT STATEMENT AND HE REFERRED TO POOR STATE OF POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND SUDAN. HE ATTRIBUTED STATEMENT TO FOLLOWERS OF SADDIQ AL-MAHDI WHO PARTICIPATED IN JULY COUP ATTEMPT.

3. CONCERNING TRIPOLI DECISION FOR STRIKE ON OCT 22 TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT PALESTINIANS, GINAWI SAID THAT ORIGINAL PROPOSAL HAD BEEN FOR ONE DAY GENERAL STRIKE. HE CLAIMED THAT HE AND OTHER MODERATES WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MODIFYING THIS PROPOSAL SO THAT CALL WAS MADE ONLY FOR SYMBOLIC FIVE MINUTE WORK STOPPAGE. HE AVOIDED INDICATING WHETHER SUCH A WORK STOPPAGE WOULD OCCUR HERE.

4. GINAWI WILL BE ONLY SUDANESE REP AT UPCOMING LABOR MEETING IN KARL MARX CITY. FYI: GINAWI, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, SPEAKS NO ENGLISH. AS GOVERNMENTS CHOSEN INSTRUMENT FOR CONTROLLING LABOR MOVEMENT, HE LED PURGE OF COMMUNISTS FROM THE SUDANESE LABOR MOVEMENT AND, REPORTEDLY, QUASHED LEADERS WHO DARED TO CRITICIZE HIS US VISIT. HE HAS STRONG "WORKER CREDENTIALS," HAVING RISEN FROM THE POSITION OF DRIVER AT THE SUDANESE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND LATER BECOMING HEAD OF UNION REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THAT SECTION OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. BREWER

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